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## DOGS FOR POLICE PURPOSES

by the police authorities of numerous countries, he considers the subject quite fully under four headings. First, what is the form and appearance of finger prints, and what causes them? Second, how they can best be made apparent when not already visible. Third, how long they will remain visible upon glass and paper surfaces, and what is the best method of making them do so? Fourth, in what manner they can best be used to identify their originators?

He records numerous notable instances when finger prints have led to the identification and conviction of criminals, giving reference to the literature of the subject. He gives ample detailed information for the making of invisible finger prints to become apparent. His article is particularly full in the description of his experiments to ascertain how long imprints made in various manner upon different substances would so withstand various exposures to weathering as to either remain still visible or to be capable of being made so. Lastly, he directs how, through photography, the appearance of the imprints may be preserved and use made of them for the identification of their origins through comparison with similar imprints from known sources. Appended to the article is a very full bibliography of the literature of the subject.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Furnished by Dr. Bennett F. Davenport, Boston.

**Use of Dogs for Police Purposes.**—Some years ago Prof. Hans Gross, the distinguished Austrian criminologist, expressed the opinion that the dog could be trained for effective police service, and his belief has been realized. In Germany more than 400 police stations are now provided with "police dogs" (*Polizeihunde*) and the results have attracted wide attention. Recently the Japanese government sent a commission to Germany to study the police dog system, with a view to introducing it into Japan. A writer in one of the popular magazines thus describes the methods of the police dog:

"The police dog will follow his master on his round, will call his attention to anything suspicious, will locate hidden vagabonds, will hold a fugitive at bay and guard him during transportation, will defend his master against an attack, will rescue the drowning, hunt for lost articles, carry messages to the police station and return with an answer; in fact, he will display almost human intelligence, and his service will often be of greater help to his master than that of one or even two policemen. Experience has shown that an inconsiderate and curious crowd is the worst enemy of the police dog and the best ally of the criminal. Through untimely interference, a crowd often makes it extremely difficult, nay, impossible, for the dog to operate successfully. The training of the public is, therefore, of the same importance as that of the dog, if the animal is to be made efficient in his work.

"The following occurrence shows how a police dog of the German capital procured the evidence necessary for the conviction of a criminal, which human skill had been unable to obtain:

"In a village near Berlin fruit had frequently been stolen from different orchards. The police dog, Prinz, sent from Berlin to 'work up the case,' followed the track of the thief from the orchard to a pile of manure and then to a tenement house occupied by a number of imported farm hands. Taken into the house, the dog crept under a bed in the last room he entered and brought forth a shirt and a paper bag full of gooseberries. He then was taken out to the field where the residents of the tenement house were at work and immediately located the owner of the bed. Investigation showed that the shirt

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belonged to another workman, from whom it had been stolen, together with 30 marks wrapped up in it. The stolen money was found in the manure pile. The suspected farm hand confessed both the stealing of the fruit and of the money."

J. W. G.

**The Criminal Museum of Berlin.**—A writer in a recent number of the *Revista penale* describes the criminal museum of Berlin as a sort of central institute for the instruction of the police and other persons charged with the protection of property and the maintenance of the public safety. Although not the largest institution of the kind now in existence, it, nevertheless, possesses the most varied and valuable collection known. It is not intended to be a mere show-place or curiosity shop, but a place of instruction. By means of the great number of objects which have been collected and arranged according to scientific principles one is enabled to study criminality in all its phases and become acquainted with the methods and instruments of crime. There are shown anthropometric measurements, Bertillon records, palm impressions, photographs and other agencies for detecting crime. Weapons, instruments for burglary and all the modern apparatus now used in committing crime are arranged on shelves and tables for convenience of study. American enterprise and ingenuity are charged with the responsibility for providing a large part of the paraphernalia now used by European criminals. There are establishments in America, we are told, that are engaged in the manufacture of drills, lock-picks, master keys, "jimmies" and other appliances for breaking safes and opening doors, to say nothing of deadly weapons of every conceivable variety, many specimens of which have been collected by the criminal museum. Among the interesting exhibits is a huge safe whose walls appear bent like sheets of paper. The rivets of the safe were broken through the use of oxygen—a process requiring skill and knowledge not possessed by ordinary thieves.

J. W. G.

**Belgian Laboratory of Criminal Anthropology.**—Through the initiative of M. Renkin, Minister of Justice, a laboratory of criminal anthropology has been established in connection with the Belgian state prison at Forest and will be under the direction of the prison physician, Dr. Vervaeck. The purpose of the laboratory is to provide the facilities for the anthropological study of criminals confined in the prison, the number of whom averages about 8,500 annually. Careful scientific observations and studies will be made of the physical and mental characteristics of criminals by specialists and the results made public in the interest of penal and criminological science. Dr. Vervaeck has recently announced his plans for the conduct of the laboratory and the methods of investigation to be pursued, which latter, he says, must be strictly scientific and impartial and without reference to any particular criminological theory. Similar laboratories have been in existence for years in Italy and Germany, and recently one has been instituted at St. Petersburg (see this JOURNAL, for November, 1910, pp. 618-619). In this country Arthur MacDonald has been advocating for years the establishment by the national government of a somewhat similar agency at Washington, but so far without result (see this JOURNAL, for May, 1910, p. 103 *et seq.*). European experience has long ago abundantly established the practical value of such researches and the examples thus set will in time doubtless be followed in America, where criminal science has hitherto made but little progress.

J. W. G.